

PLO Central Council to meet Aug. 3

DAMASCUS (R) — A special Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) council will meet in Tunis next week to discuss the mutiny against PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat within his own Fatah faction, the Palestinian news agency WAFA said Friday. WAFA said a meeting of the Palestine Central Council including members of all PLO groups was set for Aug. 3 by Council Speaker Khaled Al Fahoum. Top of the agenda will be the violent 11-week-old rebellion of Fatah hardliners opposed in Mr. Arafat's leadership, and the council will discuss the work of a six-man mediation team appointed by the PLO's top Executive Committee to try to reconcile the two sides. WAFA said. Representatives of all eight PLO groups are included on the Central Council. It will be the first meeting of the council since it was re-elected earlier this year.

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Klibi off to Greece

TUNIS (R) — Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi left here Friday for Athens for talks with Greek officials on the Middle East and the European-Arab dialogue. Mr. Klibi will meet Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, the current president of the European Economic Community's Council of Ministers. Friday night. The talks are expected to deal on the European Community's role in helping to find a solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict and how to revive the Arab-European dialogue. Arab sources here said.

Begin's popularity falling, poll shows

TEL AVIV (R) — The popularity of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin has dropped but support for the ruling Likud Party has risen during the past month, according to two public opinion polls published Friday. A survey in the mass-circulation *Yediot Achronot* newspaper showed 41 per cent of those questioned believe that Mr. Begin is the person most suited to head the government, a drop of five per cent over last month. The poll was conducted between July 12 and 21, the week Mr. Begin caused concern about his health by postponing a trip to Washington, citing personal reasons.

David Niven dies

CHATEAU D'INDEX, Switzerland (R) — British film actor David Niven died Friday in his Swiss home after a long illness his nephew, Michael Wraggah said. Mr. Niven died early Friday in his home in the mountains east of Lake Geneva. He was 73. The nephew, contacted by telephone at the Niven home, said he died peacefully and without pain shortly after 11:00 local time (1500 GMT). Mr. Wraggah said: "His last gesture a few minutes before he died had been to give the thumbs up sign."

Bush fires ravage Sardinia

ROME (R) — Italian Civil Protection Minister Loris Fortuna Friday said he asked caretaker Prime Minister Amintore Fanfani to declare Sardinia a natural disaster area after six people were killed Thursday in raging bush fires. The minister said France was unable to meet an Italian request to supply "water bomber" aircraft to fight the Sardinian fires, as all of its aircraft were busy with fires in southern France and the nearby island of Corsica. Italy had asked for help from West Germany and other community countries.

Landslide buries bus tragedy rescuers

BOGOTÁ (R) — Rescuers trying to reach a bus that had toppled down a precipice in Colombia's mountainous eastern region have been buried by a landslide in a double tragedy that could have cost 100 lives, an official said Friday. The bus fell into the ravine Thursday night, killing all 19 people on board. People from the nearby town of Chacala and workers building a hydro-electric project went to the passengers' rescue early Friday but were buried by a landslide.

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Syria reportedly agrees to specify points of conflict with PLO leader

By Lamis K. Andoni
in Tunis

Syria has agreed to proposals put forward by Yasser Arafat through a Cuban mediator on ways to heal the rift between Damascus and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), informed Palestinian sources said Friday.

The Cuban mediator, Levy Sarah Balmasca, minister of cabinet affairs and special envoy of Cuban President Fidel Castro, met with Mr. Arafat in Tunis Friday night to brief the PLO leader on the outcome of the talks he had with Syrian Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Al Kasim, Mr. Balmasca, in an interview with the Jordan Times, declined to specify the details of Mr. Arafat's proposals but the sources said they centred round suggestions that Damascus pin point differences with the PLO with the aim of starting a dialogue to heal the rift.

Mr. Arafat was expelled from Syria last month following his charges that Damascus openly supported a revolt in Fatah, the biggest commando movement under the PLO umbrella. Syria has denied the charges.

The Cuban envoy also has promised to help resolve the Syrian-PLO rift by using its influence with Syria, the sources said in Tunis.

The Cuban envoy said that during the talks he had in Damascus with Mr. Kasim, Syria also reaffirmed its total rejection of the May 17 troop withdrawal agreement signed between Israel and Lebanon.

The Cuban envoy was expected to leave for Havana later Friday.

Last week, following an urgent session of the PLO Executive Committee, the PLO refrained from publicly criticising Syria for the rebellion in Fatah, staged by dissidents who are demanding a stepped-up armed struggle against Israel and a collective Fatah leadership.

The PLO leadership, saying it had always overcome difficulties in the PLO "through democratic dialogue."

In a statement to Belgrade Radio, Mr. Arafat spoke of a plot against the PLO and said problems were being imposed on the organisation "by some Arab countries."

But he added that mediation was in progress to overcome differences between the PLO and our Syrian and Libyan brethren."

Fatah loyalists say rebels beaten back

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — Fighting flared in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley again Friday as Palestinian guerrillas loyal to Yasser Arafat said they were successfully defending their positions there against rebel guerrillas.

State-run Beirut Radio said clashes broke out in the early afternoon in the village of Jidat, where the rebels from within Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Mr. Arafat's mainstream PLO faction Fatah have besieged loyalist positions for almost a week.

The latest clashes, which followed heavy fighting in the same area Thursday, involved heavy artillery weapons, the radio said.

He declined to give casualty figures for the fighting, which has varied in intensity from sporadic small arms fire to heavy artillery and rocket exchanges.

Reports from the Bekaa have also not given firm casualty figures, but reporters said ambulances raced to and from battle scenes whenever fighting broke out.

Mr. Abdul Rahman said fighting began in Jidat last week when the rebels broke a three-week-old ceasefire agreement limiting them to 12 guerrillas in the village.



DESTRUCTION IN SRI LANKA: A shopping complex in downtown Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, stands completely destroyed by riots that have rampaged through the country for the past four days (story on page 8)

Palestinians protest in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Hundreds of Palestinians staged a anti-Israel demonstration

Friday after prayers at the Al Aqsa Mosque for three Palestinians killed in Hebron last Tuesday.

Thousands of Israeli troops waited nearby in case of violent protests, but the demonstrators dispersed peacefully at the request of religious elders.

The multi of Al Asqa, Hatib Al Kamal, called on the protesters to leave the area peacefully.

Hebron, second largest town in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, has been under curfew since masked gunmen burst into a college.

Talks in Belgrade

Mr. Arafat returned to his headquarters in Tunis Thursday after a 4-hour visit to Yugoslavia, where he discussed Middle East questions with Yugoslav officials

and Mr. Kasim. Syria also reaffirmed its total rejection of the May 17 troop withdrawal agreement signed between Israel and Lebanon.

Mr. Arafat had talks with Jovan Dejanovic, president of the Communist-led Socialist alliance, and Dobrivoje Vida, a member of the Communist Party leadership.

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said the talks were open and friendly and covered not only Middle East questions in general but also "the position of the PLO."

Wednesday night, Yugoslav State President Mika Spiljak voiced praise of Mr. Arafat's PLO leadership, saying he had always been a good friend in the PLO.

He said, however, that Iraqi communists, the sons of the late

killing three students and wounding 33.

Palestinians say the gunmen were Jewish settlers bent on avenging the death of a Jewish student in Hebron three weeks ago.

Police say investigations have not yet revealed the gunman's identity.

On Thursday, the Israeli army quickly reimposed a curfew on Hebron after Palestinians, allowed out of their homes to shop, gathered to protest against Tuesday's murders.

The army planned to lift the two-day-old curfew for several hours to allow Arabs to buy food but ordered them off the streets

after about an hour.

The cut few applies only to Palestinians and non-Jewish settlers.

Israeli Chief of Staff Moshe Levy said there had been little progress in the investigation so far.

One military official said investigation had shown the grenade used in the attack was of Israeli army issue.

Arab East Jerusalem Thursday observed a commercial strike for the second day in succession to protest against the murders.

The central market area of the West Bank city of Nablus and the nearby refugee camp of Balata were also under curfew.

American Foreign Minister Casper Weinberger said the curfew applies only to Palestinians and non-Jewish settlers.

Levy said the curfew would be lifted after further investigation.

He said, however, that Iraqi communists, the sons of the late

Kurdish tribal chieftain Mulla Mustapha Barzani and members of the outlawed Kurdistan National Union Party had been involved in the Iranian offensive.

which started six days ago into a border area of northern Iraq.

He said Mr. Barzani's sons Masoud and Idris had signed an agreement with Iranian revolutionary leader Ayatollah Khomeini to fight the Iraqi government.

Mr. Shulitz, new U.S. Middle East envoy Robert McFarlane and other officials which apparently brought the two governments closer.

U.S. officials privately voiced concern that the plan, coupled with Syria's refusal to withdraw its troops, could lead to a partition of Lebanon.

Mr. Shulitz also said Israel had no interest in remaining "in any part of the Lebanon."

He made to reporters Wednesday

appeared to meet Mr. Reagan's hope that Israel's partial withdrawal would be one phase in their agreed departure from Lebanon last May.

Mr. Shulitz and Mr. Shamir said their governments had common goals of a total withdrawal of Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian troops from Lebanon, restoration of Lebanese sovereignty and "security" for Israel's northern border.

The two Israeli ministers held more than 12 hours of talks with

Maltese and Madrid Thursday.

They were prepared to drop their main demand for a meeting on Mediterranean security in return for a face-saving statement.

Maltese Ambassador Evarist Saliba helped draft the statement and sent it back to Valletta saying that there was a good chance of reaching agreement on it Friday.

Valletta had replied telling him to withhold agreement.

In Valletta, Maltese Deputy Prime Minister Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici told Reuters in an interview that a compromise was not imminent.

The Maltese had indicated in

Maltese tactics in Madrid provoke anger, impatience

MADRID (R) — Malta provoked anger and consternation Friday at the European security conference by continuing its two-week-old blockade after indicating that it was ready to compromise, diplomats said.

They said many delegations were nearing the end of their patience and the Soviet Union in particular was furious.

Delegates met for one minute and adjourned for six hours after it became clear that Malta was not after all ready to climb down on its demands.

In Valletta, Maltese Deputy Prime Minister Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici told Reuters in an interview that a compromise was not imminent.

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Israelis fired on in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Bursts of small arms fire and two bazooka rockets were directed Friday at Israeli positions from behind Syrian lines in the Lebanese Shun mountains, an Israeli military spokesman outside Beirut said. On Thursday, the Palestinian news agency WAFA reported three attacks by Lebanese leftist guerrillas against Israeli occupation forces in Lebanon. WAFA said the "Lebanese National Resistance" attacked an Israeli patrol with rocket-propelled grenades near Kfar Shima, seven kilometers from Beirut's city centre. WAFA said an explosion knocked out an Israeli vehicle and caused Israeli casualties on the Aqqab-Sarafand coastal road, between Tyre and Sidon. On the Jasmin road near Tyre, an Israeli patrol was attacked with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons. WAFA said.

Egypt says Israel responsible for Hebron massacre

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Egypt charged Friday that Israel was directly responsible for last Tuesday's attack in the West Bank town of Hebron when masked gunmen, believed to be Jewish settlers, killed three Palestinian students and wounded about 33 others.

Egyptian Ambassador Ahmad Tawfiq Khalil delivered a toughly-worded speech on the second day of a Security Council debate on the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"Egypt considers that Israel is directly responsible for the aggression which took place against the Islamic university of Al Khalil," he said.

The only other speaker at Friday's meeting was Richard Ovinnikov, deputy permanent representative of the Soviet Union, who said responsibility for the present violence tragedy and the further aggravation of the situation in this part of the world is borne equally both by Israel and the United States."

No resolution has yet been submitted to the council, which adjourned until Monday.

Jordan opens debate

Thursday's debate was opened by Ambassador Abdullah Salati of

Jordan, the council's only Arab member, who said Israeli settlers were part of an official machinery designed to force the indigenous population out of the occupied territories.

Mr. Salati has said what recently happened in Hebron and previous acts of terrorism in the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights are practical steps intended to effect a process of systematic evacuation of the residents of the occupied Arab territories.

Since its occupation of the Arab territories, Israel has constructed settlements on well over 60 per cent of the total area of the occupied territories, particularly the West Bank, is the main objective of the present Israeli government, and for achieving this central objective, the Israeli government follows various policies all leading to facilitating the actual annexation of the occupied territories.

Jordan calls for U.N. action to protect Palestinian rights

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Thursday called on the international community to shoulder its responsibilities and urged the five permanent member states of the United Nations Security Council to act according to the U.N. Charter to safeguard peace and security and to stop aggression, occupation and violation of the legitimate rights of the individuals and nations.

Mr. Qasem was addressing the heads of the diplomatic mission of the five permanent member states of the Security Council in Amman when he received them separately at his office Thursday.

He also explained to them the seriousness of the conditions in the occupied Arab territories in

general, and the recent Israeli arbitrary measures in Hebron in particular, in the aftermath of Tuesday's attack by armed Zionist settlers at the Hebron Islamic College and the killing and wounding of many Palestinian students.

Vietnam University Vice-President Ali Muhammed sent cables, in the name of the university's Royal Commission, its teaching staff and students, to the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the World Federation of Universities, and international educational and international bodies to intervene to stop such "barbaric massacres" of innocent civilians in the occupied territories.

Mr. Shulitz said those objectives are:

"To see to it that we get the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon."

"To emphasise the importance of the emergence of a sovereign Lebanon with a strong central government able to rule its territory."

"To find provisions that are adequate to meet the security interests of Israel, particularly in northern Israel."

In the meeting with Mr. Reagan, Mr. Shulitz said discussions in addition to Lebanon included the overall peace process and the importance of moving it forward, developments on the West Bank, Egyptian-Israeli relations, and U.S.-Israeli relations.

The secretary of state called it "a very fruitful meeting," adding that he was grateful to both Mr. Shamir and Mr. Arnon and to Israeli Prime Minister Begin for the hurried visit by the two officials to the United States to discuss these issues.

U.S.-Soviet grain deal seen as political signal

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet agreement to a new grain treaty with the United States was being interpreted by Western diplomats here Friday as a sign that Moscow wants an all-round improvement in relations.

HOME NEWS

French embassy in Iran given extra protection

TEHRAN (R) — Security has been tightened around the French embassy in Tehran with all streets leading to it blocked off, after a request from the French government for more protection, Iran said Friday.

Paris made the request after a man who said he represented an Armenian guerrilla group called the French news agency AFP here Thursday and threatened a rocket attack on the embassy within 48 hours.

The Iranian national news agency IRNA quoted a foreign ministry official as saying the increased security measures also included stationing more police around the embassy. He made no mention of the Armenian threat.

Armenian guerrillas demanding the release of colleagues held in France have claimed responsibility for three bomb attacks on French targets in Tehran in the last week and have repeatedly warned that they will strike again.

The latest threat came a day after five Armenians attacked the Turkish ambassador's residence in Tehran, finally killing themselves and two other people.

The Armenians operating in Tehran say they belong to the "true group," believed by French police to be connected with the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA).

Many of the Armenians whose release is being demanded by the Ory group are suspected members of ASALA.

They were picked up after a bomb explosion on July 15 at the Turkish airlines desk in Paris' Orly airport in which seven people died. ASALA claimed responsibility for the attack.

Diplomats estimate there are about 200,000 Armenians in Iran, many of them in Tehran and the central city of Isfahan.

Abe tour to include Iran, Iraq, Turkey

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Toshirō Nakasone, committed to boosting Japan's role in the world, is sending Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe to five Gulf and East European countries.

Mr. Abe will be the first foreign minister of a major industrialised country to visit Iran since the Islamic revolution in 1979 and the first Japanese foreign minister to visit Romania and Bulgaria.

His two-week tour beginning on August 2 will also include Iraq and Turkey, where his stop in Ankara will be the first by a Japanese minister since the end of World War II.

Since Mr. Nakasone took office last November, he has reinforced ties to the United States and called on Japan to take a more active role as a member of the Western bloc.

Mr. Abe told reporters the main aim of his visits to Iran and Iraq

They added that they had not heard of the Armenian Revolutionary Army (ARA) until it claimed responsibility for shooting a Turkish diplomat in Brussels two weeks ago.

"We do not know who they are. These groups keep themselves very secret. But we think they are separate from ASALA."

Armenians estimate they number about 200,000 in Lebanon mostly in Beirut.

The sources added: "These are obviously young people, fed up with diplomatic ways of stating our cause. They think this type of armed struggle is the best way."

"We think the five who died Wednesday did commit suicide, as their group claimed later. They probably felt they were preparing the ground for understanding of our cause, firstly awakening public opinion among Armenians so that they do not forget, and secondly arousing opinion worldwide."

Speaking in Portuguese with a foreign accent, the caller added: "The Lisbon action group of the Armenian Revolutionary Army will go into operation again in Portugal."

Claiming that the Armenian group had the support of Portuguese extremist organisations, he added: "Our brothers will be avenged. We shall act again in Portugal."

The five guerrillas killed in Lisbon Wednesday may have been from Beirut but this was not yet clear, Armenian sources have said.

Police sources in Lisbon said the guerrillas reserved hotel rooms in Portugal from a public telex in Beirut and entered the country on Lebanese passports.

The Armenian sources commented: "They could have come from here. On the other hand, the passports may have been forged."

"We have heard news reports mentioning their names. Some did have a familiar ring but then many Armenian names sound similar."

The sources said Armenians did not realistically expect to win back their homeland in the foreseeable future.

"We don't see it tomorrow, or in five years. But things happen in world politics. It could be an opportunity will arise. Trouble in the Soviet Union, trouble in Turkey, perhaps with the Kurdish problem."

"This statement is intended to provoke unrest and instability and to give outsiders an opportunity to intervene in the Gulf region," the agency quoted him as saying.

"If an opportunity arises, we must be ready. We must not let it slip," one of the sources said.

KUWAIT (R) — Any Iranian attempt to block the Strait of Hormuz at the entrance to the Gulf would constitute direct intervention in Oman's territory and internal affairs. Oman's ambassador to Kuwait said Friday.

The ambassador, Saad Al-Ansi, quoted by the Kuwait news Agency, was commenting on Iran's statement that it would block all oil exports from the Gulf if Iraq disrupted Iranian oil movements.

"This statement is intended to provoke unrest and instability and to give outsiders an opportunity to intervene in the Gulf region," the agency quoted him as saying.

Oman would not allow or accept foreign intervention in the area, he added.

Oman's Musandam Peninsula lies at the southern side of the Strait of Hormuz, and the sultanate maintains air force and naval facilities there.

But military and diplomatic sources say Oman, despite having among the best equipped and trained military forces in the Gulf, would be hard-pressed to prevent any concerted Iranian effort to block the waterway.

Oman has no minesweepers and would thus also be unable to counter an Iranian attempt to mine the Strait, the sources said.

But they noted the sultanate maintains close military ties with the United States, which has said it would guarantee freedom of navigation in the Gulf if Iran carried out its heart.

The radio said unidentified masked gunmen stopped the truck and ordered the driver to get out. Then they poured oil over the fish and threw a grenade, blowing up the truck, it added.

The radio said the gunmen stopped the truck at Bourj Abu Haidar, near the busy Corniche Street.

They ordered the driver to tell



LULL BEFORE THE STORM: Guerrillas loyal to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat talk about the strategies of the day in Jidat Wednesday, during a lull in the fighting between them and rebel elements outside Beirut. These fighters were in the town of Jidat in the Lebanon mountains waiting to take up new positions in anticipation of more fighting. (A.P. wirephoto)

Oman rejects Iranian threat to block Strait of Hormuz

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Iraqi holidaymakers flock to Kurdish hill resorts

SARE RASH, Northern Iraq (R)

Holidaymakers are flocking in their thousands to cool mountain resorts in northern Iraq despite bitter fighting against an Iranian attacking force on the Kurdistan border to the east.

Jet fighter-bombers and helicopter gunships daily overfly the front 160 kilometers to the west of this hill resort.

Para-military people's army troops guard strategic points in the area, and every night hundreds of tourists — who have fled the strife — gather round cafe television sets to watch the latest war communiqué from Baghdad.

Otherwise, life is normal and Kurdistan with its 2.5 million people has every appearance of stability as an election campaign in

progress.

The film showed heavy artillery pounding mountain peaks, helicopter gunships attacking the slopes and a number of Iraqi soldiers advancing under cover of the fire.

It also showed several Iranian prisoners of war.

Turkey to hold talks with Greece

ANKARA (R) — Turkey and Greece, which opened official talks three days ago for the first time in many years, will meet in Athens in January to discuss economic and tourism issues, a joint communiqué said Friday.

The communiqué, which followed meetings here between ambassadors of the two countries, said "the sides had a substantive exchange of views and determined the areas of cooperation between the two countries."

The decision to hold meetings at ambassadorial level on non-controversial issues was made by the countries' foreign ministers when they met in May in Paris.

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NEWS

Housing Corporation figures announced for 1969 until 1982

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Housing Corporation has completed 69 individual housing schemes between 1969 and 1982, according to a statistical bulletin issued here Tuesday and published by Al-Rai newspaper Wednesday.

The bulletin said that the corporation had in total built 13,849 housing units at an estimated cost of JD 93.6 million.

According to the bulletin, the

corporation had set up housing projects in different parts of the country but with the main emphasis on Amman, Balqa, Ma'an and Irbid governorates, in accordance with the density of the population in each governorate.

It said that 27 housing projects were built in the Amman area, three in the Balqa governorate, 15 in the Ma'an governorate and 10 in the Irbid governorate during this period.

Government considering introduction of old age pensions, says 'Obeid

AMMAN (Petra) — The government is seriously studying the possibility of introducing a law to give all Jordanian citizens an old age pension whether covered by Social Security Corporation (SSC) services or not, according to SSC director Farhi 'Obeid.

He said that the SSC also hopes to give cover to 2,000,000 people by 1985 with the inclusion of new sectors of the working population not as yet included.

Speaking at a meeting of SSC's liaison officers attached to 50 companies and organisations, Mr. 'Obeid also said that the SSC's funds are being invested in a number of major projects in the best interest of the contributors.

He also stressed the role of liaison officers who, he said, are available to advise prospective members on the SSC's regulations and activities.



Social Security Corporation (SSC) director Farhi 'Obeid Wednesday addresses a meeting of SSC liaison officers in Amman (Petra photo)

University enrolment offered by post offices

AMMAN (Petra) — Post offices throughout the country will again this year offer their services to students wishing to enrol at the two universities in Jordan, according to Ministry of Communications Under-Secretary Mansour Ibn Tarif.

He said that post offices will be supplied with special application forms Saturday to be issued to the applicants on Aug. 1. The applicants will fill in the forms and

enclose the registration fees before handing the applications to the post offices which in turn will forward them to the two universities, Mr. Ibn Tarif said.

He added that clear instructions have been given to the post offices on the means of handling the applications and on forwarding them to the universities so as to ensure speedy and efficient dispatches.

This is the fourth year the post offices have offered this service, and it is hoped that it will be no less successful than in previous years. Mr. Ibn Tarif said.

Navigation meeting held in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Jordan is currently taking part in a board meeting of the Arab Company for Sea Transport and Navigation which opened in Baghdad Wednesday.

The board members from Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Sudan and Iraq will discuss subjects connected with the company's projects and future programmes. They will also endorse the 1977 agreement on the investment of the company's deposits.

The company was established in 1962 by the Council of Arab Economic Unity with an initial capital of \$17.645 million.

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Prime Minister Mudar Badran engrossed in the construction of the new industrial estate currently being built at Sahab during a visit Wednesday to the site (Petra photo)

Committees review transport investment priorities to 1990

AMMAN (J.T.) — Eight committees set up by the Ministry of Transport have embarked on a study of a lengthy report on investment in Jordan's transport sector from now until the year 1990.

The report, prepared by a consultancy firm, includes projects to be implemented in the land transport, railway, airport and seaport sectors which are estimated to cost JD 450 million, with slight adjustments according to raw material price fluctuations.

Reports due November

The Ministry of Transport has distributed the report to the eight committees to be studied in detail by sector before submitting their reports to the ministry in three months time.

The first committee will deal with the section concerning airports and air services. It is composed of representatives of the

Civil Aviation Authority, Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airlines, the Ministry of Transport and the Queen Alia International Airport.

The second committee is entrusted with studying the economic principles of transport and Jordan's projected transport requirements. It is composed of representatives from the Ministries of Transport and Public Works and the National Planning Council (NPC).

Road safety policy

The third committee is entrusted with studying road safety. It comprises representatives of the Ministries of Interior and Transport and road safety societies.

The fourth committee will consider the railway sector. It comprises representatives of the Aqaba Railway Corporation, the Hijaz Railway, the NPC and the Ministry of Transport.

Arab-American, Jordanian chambers of commerce discuss mutual cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary-General of the Arab American Chamber of Commerce Wednesday met Jordanian officials to discuss ways of bolstering cooperation between Jordanian and American chambers.

Mr. Mohammad Al Baghal met the secretary-general of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Mr. Amin Al Husseini and the director of the Amman Chamber of Commerce Rajeh Al Amin.

They also discussed ways of improving Arab-American trade and the exchange of visitors and information.

Ministers tour new JD 15m Sahab estate

Badran: Industrial estate will help curb pollution

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Wednesday that the aim of establishing industrial estates in the country is to bring together factories and workshops in specially assigned, well planned areas which can be serviced by modern facilities.

Collecting industries in one area is bound to curb pollution of the environment in urban regions and help to ensure that everyone adheres to public safety regulations, Mr. Badran added.

The Prime Minister was speaking during a visit to the Sahab Industrial Estate (SIE), situated around 15 kilometres south-east of Amman.

Accompanied by the ministers of Finance, Labour, Industry and Trade and the Interior, the prime minister toured the project, which is being set upon 2,500 dunums of land, and was briefed by the di-

rector of the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC), Fayez Suhaimi on the project's three stages.

Preparatory work for the imple-

mentation of the first stage on an 850 dunum plot has already been carried out and work has now started on administrative and service buildings and the construction of an infrastructure network, Mr. Suhaimi said.

The SIE, he added, occupies a uniquely central location and can be easily reached from all parts of the country and the Gulf states, is

mid-way between Amman and the Queen Alia International Airport and is connected with main roads with Aqaba in the south.

Mr. Suhaimi also spoke about the incentives and privileges which factories can enjoy at the SIE site.

The SIE, the first project carried out by the JIEC, is expected to cost JD 15 million to establish. It has been planned to house 700 factories which will employ some 25,000 workers.

During his tour of the project, the prime minister called on the minister of finance to allocate the necessary funds to help the JIEC for the building which government departments will be using, and asked the JIEC board to find means of doubling the corporation's capital to enable it to meet all its financial commitments.

British Council play's run extended

AMMAN (J.T.) — The British Council has decided to extend the run of its production of Noel Coward's romantic comedy "Private Lives" by two performances after the three originally scheduled nights all sold out.

The additional performances will be staged Thursday and Friday July 28, 29 at the British Council Centre on Jabal Amman. The curtain will rise at 8 p.m., but refreshments will be available in the centre's grounds from 7:15 p.m. onwards.

The play, for which tickets are still on sale priced JD 2 stars Martin Savage as Elyot Chase, Margi Bryant as Amanda Prynne, Jack Rigg as Victor Prynne, Sally Kemp as Sybil Chase and Antoinette Farah in the cameo role of Louise the maid.

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AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Transport Corporation (PTC) has assigned 124 buses to transport Jordanian pilgrims to the holy places in Mecca in the coming pilgrimage season, according to PTC director Ibrahim Mahadin.

He said that the PTC will loan these buses to sub-contractors in charge of transporting the pilgrims who will be charged JD 45 for the night's all sold out.

The loan of buses to private contractors is in compliance with regulations laid down by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs for this year's pilgrimage, Mr. Mahadin explained.

He said that the buses will be from the reserve stock and will not be needed inside Jordan during the pilgrimage season.

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The good old tactics!

A NEWS report from South Africa recently suggested that Pretoria plans to uproot nearly a quarter of a million blacks from three townships near Cape Town in one of the biggest forced removals in South Africa's history. The move is reportedly causing great anxiety among those blacks who have lived there for several decades. But does a racist government really care? A short glance at the history of South Africa shows that forced removals of blacks are not new to the white-dominated government, for according to a survey published recently, the government has already relocated 3.5 million non-whites since 1960.

Such schemes by the South Africans remind us of Israeli moves in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It is not enough that the Israelis have for so many years been usurping Arab lands and forcing its Palestinian inhabitants to evacuate their homes and leave their country, the Begin government is now planning to evict all Palestinian refugees from their camps in the occupied territories and forcibly move them to the Jordan Valley near Jericho. Palestinians living in the towns need not worry about evictions of course; the Jewish settlers are out to eliminate them physically from the surface of the earth. Remember the Hebron massacre of Tuesday?

In both Israel and South Africa the use of force, torture and killing of Palestinians by the Israelis and blacks by white South Africans have been and will continue to be a way of life for the two regimes and plainly visible to the whole world. Looking at events taking place in these two countries, we cannot help but remember the methods used by the Nazis, during and before World War II, who manipulated peoples, countries and lands, torturing and killing, in the most atrocious ways, the inhabitants of the countries they occupied and bringing back slavery and degradation in the 20th century. What was the world's answer to the Nazis? It joined forces and destroyed their brutal regime. Now that there are these two not-so-different regimes which are simply defying humanity and trying to destroy the integrity and pride of two whole peoples, what is the world doing about them?

While such inhumanity is being practised openly in our midst, those who call themselves the protectors of democracy and human rights are not only sitting back and watching the Israeli and South African atrocities but they are also supplying direct and indirect assistance to them in defiance of all basic principles and of humanity itself. As for us, nothing has basically changed: we continue to adopt the good old wait-and-see tactics.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Israel's sequence of crimes

WHAT HAPPENED in Hebron Tuesday is one in a long sequence of crimes which the Zionists have committed in Palestine and against the Arab Nation. The Israeli information media, which described the attackers as 'unknown', were following exactly the same methods previously adopted whenever Zionists murdered Arab citizens and tried to escape the responsibility. We have not yet forgotten those media people who described the perpetrators of the car bombings, against the mayors of Nablus and Ramallah in 1980 as 'unknown', in the same way as they described the machine-gun attack on the worshippers at Al Aqsa Mosque two years ago, and the 1969 burning of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. The Zionist terrorist groups are constantly committing crimes against the Arab population with the full blessing of the Israeli government. This yet another phase in the well-planned plot to force the Arabs to abandon their homeland. The murderers of the Arab students in Hebron will remain 'unknown' as long as the Zionists continue to have the upper hand in our land.

We can only expect such criminal actions from Israel, but we are disillusioned with the attitude of the rest of the world which is usually prompt in trying to find pretexts for the assassinations by blaming both the Arabs and Israelis for escalating violence. We do not blame Israel or the other world nations but we do hold the Arab Nation responsible for always being happy to look on apathetically.

Al Dustour: Hebron needs Arab unity

ANOTHER BLACK page was turned Tuesday in the history of the Arab Nation with the murder of Arab students in the occupied town of Hebron at the hands of Zionist fanatics and settlers. No matter how grieved and sorrowful we might feel for the assassination of our kinsmen in the occupied lands, deep down we realise that grief and sorrow will not heal a wound nor will it repel aggression and save the Arab population from further violent attacks.

The massacre in Hebron ought to stand the Arab World face to face with its responsibilities and open our nation's eyes to the imminent danger which is not directed against the West Bank and Gaza but against the Arab people at large. Hebron, which today stands in mourning, appeals to all Arabs for support and help. The Arab town does not need any more denunciations or condemnations but requires physical help. Thus it calls for a halt to the further bloodshed of Palestinian fighters in the Bekaa Valley and a mobilisation of Arab states to liberate the whole of the occupied lands.

We also note that the world at large, and particularly the United States, bears a responsibility for the continuous Israeli crimes in Palestine. The U.S. has a special responsibility to stop Israel's criminal behaviour because it supplies it with the weapons and military and material assistance to enable it to commit aggression against the Palestinians and the Arab Nation.

Sawt Al Shaab: Hebron's brave stand

THE CRIME committed by the Zionists in Hebron Tuesday represents a manifestation of Zionist ideology. The killing of the three students and wounding of 30 others constitutes a prelude to the complete assassination of the Arab town, the Arab people and the Palestinians as a whole. The despicable crime is a further link in a long chain of terrorist activities committed by the Zionists against the Arab inhabitants in a bid to force them to abandon their homeland. It comes in the wake of a spate of acts of harassment and intimidations which the Zionist settlers have committed in Hebron and is linked to the recurrent curfew measures imposed by the Israeli government in a bid to totally subdue its Arab population.

Syria — clubbing together to beat the system

By Eric Rouleau

For another angle on present day Syrian society, we move to the northern city of Aleppo, which lies at the intersection of age-old caravan routes. Until the late 1950s, Aleppo was Syria's main agricultural, industrial and economic centre, and the seed-bed of a whole generation of politicians.

The avalanche of agrarian reforms, nationalisations and expropriations that swept down on its wealthier citizens (first under the regime of the union of Syria with Nasser's Egypt, from 1958 to 1961, then under the Ba'th in 1963), the centralisation of economic power in Damascus, and the break with Iraq, Syria's hinterland and bridgehead to the markets of the Gulf, all conspired to relegate Aleppo to the status of a provincial town.

But the old bourgeoisie still thrives there, as indeed it does in the rest of the country. To be convinced of this, one needs only to pay a visit to the Aleppo Club, the only fashionable nightspot in town. On a typical evening, cohorts of white-jacketed waiters, 400 or more guests with messe, kebabs, roast mutton, and mountains of brown rice topped with roast almonds, all washed down with whisky and champagne amidst a constant hubbub of conversation and the occasional roar of laughter. On the dancefloor, young people gyrate wildly in best disco fashion. Later in the evening, their elders show their paces with a sedate tango or waltz.

Smoking dancing would really be more appropriate for the Aleppo Club, whose faded charm, architecture, old fashioned furniture, and clientele could have come straight out of Luchino Visconti's "Death in Venice". In the days when it was the exclusive stamping ground of rich landowners, merchants and bankers, most of them Christian and all strongly influenced by French culture, the Aleppo Club must have dazzled foreign visitors with its candlelit dinners, exquisite cuisine and conviviality.

The bourgeoisie of Aleppo, I was told by one of its representatives, "has nine lives, like a cat". Many of its members emigrated to Europe or the United States where they stashed their money safely away in Swiss or American bank accounts. Those who stayed behind still live in sumptuous family mansions, surrounded by period furniture, objets d'art and old masters which would not be out of place in a museum -- as they proudly point out to the visitor. "I got my own back on the regime," says one of them. "I'm several times richer now than I was before all that socialist legislation got its claws into me".

The bourgeois of the old school find it more convenient to invite their friends to dinner at the Aleppo Club rather than round to their homes because of the problems of finding servants ("What do you expect? They're running the country now"). It is easy to spot their tables at the club: the women are discreetly elegant, and usually the language spoken is French -- and very correct French at that. They pretend not to notice their fellow guests at neighbouring tables -- "nouveau riche upstairs" thrown up by the Ba'thist regime.

The latter, who prefer to speak English (not always grammatically), enjoy flaunting their wealth. Their wives, who dress at the great Paris and New York couturiers, are usually a-glitter with diamonds. When they entertain guests at home or at the club, they tend to hire complete bands, famous singers, or belly dancers for the evening. Wealthy Syrians have no complexes about living it up in

the presence of representatives of the "socialist" government. The guests at the Aleppo Club frequently include high-ranking government or Ba'th Party officials having a good blow-out. They can also frequently be seen in the cabarets of Damascus (which have names like Crazy Horse, Les Caves du Roy, or Les Annes Folles), where a bottle of whisky costs \$80 (about a quarter of a senior civil servant's monthly salary).

It is an open secret that many public sector officials and civil or military dignitaries belong to what is known as the bureaucratic bourgeoisie, which is closely associated, if not in collusion, with the two other propertied classes already mentioned. The *nouveaux riches* usually come from a rural background -- the Ba'th Party's grass roots -- and speak only Arabic. They owe their rise in society not only to the position of power they occupy but to services rendered by "cosmopolitan" compatriots who act as middlemen in international transactions. It has been estimated that over the last ten years the Ba'th state of Syria has given birth to some 5,000 millionaires.

One of several ways of getting rich quick is to cream off substantial commissions on contracts between nationalised companies and foreign firms. When one remembers that the State controls all major development schemes, 80 per cent of imports and 90 per cent of exports, it is easy to see how some public figures -- known to all -- have managed, within a few years, to become so rich that they have bought large farms, plantations, and luxury residences not only in Syria but also in Europe and the United States.

Smuggling, that achilles' heel of the rigidly planned economy, is also ripe. All products subject to an import ban or quota, or sold under a State monopoly, are available on the black market, sometimes at reasonable prices because they escape sales tax or import duty. This illegal trade thrives almost in broad daylight, despite the prison sentences to which both buyers and sellers are liable. The foreign cigarettes surfeitedly sold on street corners fill cigarette boxes in government ministries. American refrigerators, German television sets and Italian air-conditioners (officially banned to protect local industries) are exhibited in the back rooms of specialised shops. A senior Economic Ministry official put the number of smuggled video recorders in Syria at about 100,000. Society ladies exchange addresses where they can get haute couture dresses, perfumes, and other luxuries.

Smuggled goods either enter the country by sea or easily slip across Syria's frontiers with Turkey, and (especially) Lebanon, thanks to the connivance of officials in the right places. The biggest single smuggler is allegedly the army. Military trucks travel on special roads and stand little chance of being searched, especially when acting on the written orders of field officers.

Another thriving practice is bribery, the bane of all developing countries. Strangely enough, it has become common in Syria only in the last 15 years, according to one Damascus retailer: "Civil servants used to take it as a personal insult if you offered them the tiniest gift. Nowadays, I need big kickbacks for people of every grade if I want to get anything done".

There are several reasons for this collapse of public morality: The "liberalisation" measures announced by President Hafez Assad when he came to power in

1970, the influx of Arab capital after the 1973-1974 oil boom, the initiation of ambitious and occasionally useful development projects, the lack of public accountability and the government's desire to strengthen the regime's foundations by going easy on the bourgeoisie, whose members are all the more grasping because they are themselves so close to the reins of power.

The government has, it is true, attempted to crack down on corruption, but only half-heartedly.

When somebody gets the full treatment, he is usually a nobody.

The recent public hanging of a bank clerk who had embezzled a few hundred thousand dollars excited pity rather than fear.

But the present economic situation has spelled an end to the period of laissez faire. The flow of petrodollars has reduced to a trickle; as a result of a rash decision to encourage consumer demand, there has been an increase in spending. The balance of trade deficit is alarming high (exports cover only 40 per cent of the cost of imports). To slow down inflation, and to stop the value of the Syrian pound from sinking further, the government has prescribed some strong medicine.

For the last two years importers have had to pay the government an advance of between 25 and 70 per cent of the exchange value of the goods they have ordered, in return for a letter of credit that rarely comes back to them in less than six months. Moreover, they have to buy foreign currency at a higher rate than the one applying to public sector imports. The list of those products which may only be imported through State monopolies or not at all is getting longer every day. The result has been beneficial for the country's finances (imports have plummeted by 50 per cent since 1981), but bad for the private sector, where some small and medium sized firms have gone out of business because they cannot get the needed supplies.

The State has already squeezed out most private wholesalers (who have no more than 20 per cent of the market). It is now directing its fire at retailers current market shares 70 per cent by speeding up the introduction of State supermarkets, which sell higher-quality and cheaper produce than private shops. Rent control and the confiscation of land in and around built-up areas has recently cut down property speculation, until 1980 one of the main sources of private wealth.

Although almost all government officials try to play down those austerity measures, the governor of Hama, Mohammed Harba, is more forthright: "But of course we're going to get rid of the bourgeoisie-parasites -- those who have never invested or produced anything".

Despite all that high-rolling at the Aleppo Club, it looks as though most members of the old bourgeoisie, including supporters of the regime, realise that party is well and truly over. Meanwhile the power structure in Syria guarantees the survival -- for many years to come -- of the "hierarchical bourgeoisie" and its cronies.

The government is nothing if not resourceful in filling its coffers. Take car imports, which are a State monopoly. Two years ago, 28,000 Syrians ordered Japanese cars and advanced 80 per cent of the price of each vehicle to the State. The vehicles were delivered to customers last February. The State, of course, makes a profit as well as imposing very heavy taxes and import duty on each car (which quadruples the price). But

Even so, most small cooperatives make a loss, partly because of their own inability to manage the land rationally (it has usually been broken up into small plots as a result of successive agrarian reforms), and partly because of red tape.

Civil servants have much more reason to complain. Their salaries are not indexed to the cost of living (they last went up in 1980 by between 25 and 70 per cent). They are very low, starting at 1,000 Syrian pounds a month (about \$185) and rising to 4,500 Syrian pounds (about \$830) for a minister. Income tax then lops off about a third. The fact that the salary scale is based not on a person's job but on his or her university degree -- an engineer or a teacher, for example, can earn more than the governor of a province or a minister's chief adviser -- is not much comfort to anyone.

Despite controlled rents, none of the salaries just mentioned would pay for a four-room apartment, unless, by a stroke of luck the building happened to have been built before 1970. The doubling of the population (from five to ten million) since the Ba'th Party came to power 20 years ago and the drift from rural areas have caused unprecedented housing problems. While many families cram themselves into tiny flats and hundreds of thousands of young people postpone getting married, sometimes indefinitely, because they cannot find accommodation, 60,000 apartments stand empty in Damascus alone. Paradoxically, the government refuses to requisition them "out of respect for private property". It has, however, started building housing estates whose units are sold at cost price; even then, not everyone can afford them. Housing is not being built fast enough or in large enough quantities (because of lack of resources), and at the present rate the housing crisis will not be solved for several decades. In the circumstances, it becomes easier to understand why the government turns a blind eye when civil servants take bribes or, if they are more honest, take time off from the office to moonlight.

Like almost all Third World countries, Syria is living above its means, and would have great difficulty in making ends meet if it did not receive financial aid from various Arab countries. The 1979 Arab summit granted Syria an annual income of \$1,850 million. Iraq, Libya and Algeria have not paid their contributions and it has been left to Saudi Arabia and some of the Gulf states to finance Syria's war effort. According to Deputy Prime Minister Abu Kader Kaddoura, Syria received only \$750 million last year. The

sword of Damocles still hangs over the country. As Mr. Kaddoura says: "We do not want to be at the mercy of political upheavals or the whim of some other Arab Head of State".

A big effort has therefore been made to improve government finances. There has been some success in stepping up the production of phosphates and oil, agricultural output has risen, except in the case of wheat and barley, where yields have fallen slightly. According to Mr. Kaddoura, the drive to make the public sector profitable bore fruit in 1982 for the first time in 15 years. Syria's rapprochement with Iran, despite serious ideological and political differences, made it possible to make up for Iraq's failure to pay its contribution: Tehran supplies Syria with between six and seven million tonnes of crude oil, of which one million is not charged for.

Thanks to austerity measures, Syria has succeeded in cutting down its foreign debt, according to the World Bank, to \$4,200 million -- a relatively modest amount in view of the scale of its development programme and military expenditure.

It is true that Syria's official foreign debt does not include credits from the Soviet Union (essentially for arms purchases), which are kept secret. It is presumed that the Russians have given Syria long-term, low-interest loans.

Despite the favourable terms of repayment that the Soviet Union usually grants its "friends", President Assad has always encouraged trade with the West, and in particular with the EEC, which is still Syria's main trading partner. Trade with East European countries, after declining steadily over the last ten years, picked up recently. A number of Western companies have been discouraged by restrictions on the private sector, delays in the settling of invoices, and administrative red tape. Moreover, Syria's own financial difficulties have incited it to turn to more understanding suppliers, particularly those that are willing to provide the Ba'th regime with the political and military means to defend itself.

- Le Monde



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Sinowatz: Palestinian rights must be respected

VIENNA (J.T.) — Austrian Chancellor Fred Sinowatz has said that there can be no peace in the Middle East unless the rights of the Palestinian people are respected. In an interview published recently in the Austrian daily newspaper *Arbeiterzeitung*, Mr. Sinowatz, who succeeded former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, also reiterated that Austria under him would continue the same policies pursued by his predecessor on the Middle East. Following is the full text of the interview.

Q: Mr. Chancellor, your predecessor, Dr. Kreisky, with the Middle East policy Austria pursued under him for many years has left you a weighty inheritance: Our country's great prestige in the Arab World but at the same time hostility on the part of the Israeli government and of a large part of the Israeli public. What will you do with this inheritance?

A: In Bruno Kreisky, a man with very great political experience has left politics, a man who had accumulated a large amount of very detailed knowledge of the Middle East situation, who knew and knows all leading statesmen in that region personally and who therefore has a profound understanding of the situation in the Middle East. Hence in this respect Bruno Kreisky's personality is irreplaceable. But as regards the basic line of our foreign policy, in the Middle East question, too,

there will be the highest measure of continuity. This is in accord with our country's interests but also with the traditional sympathy Social Democrats have always had for oppressed and persecuted nations.

Hence we have always done everything to contribute to a peaceful solution in the Middle East. But peace is only possible if there is a minimum of justice and hope for the future and if the national rights of the Palestinian people are respected. There can be no durable and secure peace as long as a nation is oppressed.

Q: Economic, political and, not least, moral priorities have led to a special emphasis on the Middle East problem in Austria's foreign policy in recent years. In addition there were Kreisky's personal and biographical background and interests. Will you continue to assess this emphasis in Austria's foreign policy as has been done over the last few years?

A: As Austria's foreign policy has paid special attention to the Middle East because we are convinced that the conflict in that region has a direct effect on Europe and is of fundamental importance to world peace. That region is very important for us politically, but also in economic terms because the Arab countries are now among our most significant trading partners.

Besides Vienna, Burgenland where I come from, was the region which had the largest Jewish communities in Austria until 1938. I am therefore very well aware of the sufferings of these people, how people of Jewish faith were persecuted in Europe in the era of Fascism. And so I understand that the survivors and the descendants of these victims of persecution want security and peace.

But you have to look at the other side, too—the sufferings of the Palestinian people. These are people who have been driven from their homes again and again in the course of history right until rec-

ently: people against whom cruel massacres have been perpetrated—let me just remind you of Sabra and Shatila.

Hence we have always done everything to contribute to a peaceful solution in the Middle East. But peace is only possible if there is a minimum of justice and hope for the future and if the national rights of the Palestinian people are respected. There can be no durable and secure peace as long as a nation is oppressed.

Q: As minister of education, you were especially concerned with fostering interest in contemporary history among young people, and notably you helped to ensure that the young generation learns about the dangers of antisemitism and racism. This has been appreciated by the small Jewish community in Vienna. Now if you continue the Austrian Middle East policy, do you see this as a contradiction to or a break with your enlightened work as minister of education?

A: On the contrary. We must continue this educational work. This is a highly important task. But this will not prevent us from speaking out against the policy of a government if it is incompatible with human rights or conflicts with international order.

Q: Kreisky and the Austrian government played an important mediating role in the question of the exchange of prisoners between the PLO and Israel. What about these talks? What can the federal government now do in this matter?

A: I think the humanitarian role the former federal chancellor was

able to play in the context of the contacts on the question of the exchange of prisoners and in particular in transmitting news to the prisoners' relatives was made possible by his great prestige, the international respect he enjoyed, and his great experience. He very deliberately refused to act as a political mediator. I do not know if and how it will be possible, given current developments in the Middle East, to continue these humanitarian efforts. But in view of our general position in foreign policy, where we attach such great importance to all humanitarian questions in international relations, Austria will of course also be available in the Middle East if we are wanted. We will help wherever we can.

Q: Israel and Gemayel's Beirut government have signed a troop withdrawal agreement without including Syria or the PLO who also have troops stationed in Lebanon, especially in the north. The substance of the agreement as well as the fact that they were presented with a *fait accompli* have prompted Damascus as well as the left and the Muslims in Beirut to reject the agreement. How do you expect any change in this respect?

A: I do not want to comment on the details of that agreement. The Lebanese people and the leaders of that country are in a very very difficult situation. After so many years of war and civil war, there is a great desire for peace and of

course it is legitimate for every country to wish to be free of foreign troops and foreign armed units. We know that from our own experience. In all these years of the Lebanese crisis, Austria has supported Lebanon, with which we have very long-standing and particularly good relations. In its aspirations for the preservation of its unity and the restoration of full sovereignty over its whole territory. But precisely the Lebanese situation shows how difficult it is to solve partial problems in that region as long as no solution to the basic problem, the question of the Palestinians has been found. So we must also try to understand why Syria and the Palestinians are unhappy about the agreement.

Q: International public opinion has increasingly come to reject Begin's policies. All this—as well as the moderate course which the PLO have been pursuing for a long time now and their readiness for a dialogue—have not prompted the Israeli government to change their policy either with regard to Lebanon or in the occupied areas. Can we or can't we expect any change in this respect?

A: The situation in the Middle East has certainly not become better lately, rather it has become still worse. I do not know whether the Israeli government will change their policy. One can only hope they will. The PLO's moderate course and readiness for dialogue which you mentioned has not so

led to any result, and so we now see radical forces getting stronger. Those people who have lost hope that there will be a compromise in the foreseeable future.

Thus the things are happening which Bruno Kreisky has always feared. We can only hope that the time will come when reasonable people will sit down at the negotiating table on both sides, people who are strong enough to get a solution accepted. A moderate course by one side will not be successful and cannot last when it finds no echo on the other side.

Q: According to the latest polls taken in Israel itself, the popularity of the right-wing government has declined. Israeli public opinion—as one can also see from the mass demonstrations against Begio's policy—is becoming increasingly critical. Do you see a chance of a peaceful solution through a swing of opinion in Israel?

A: I have not seen this poll, and in general you have to beware of overrating opinion polls. But so far as the chance of a peaceful solution is concerned, I think it will hardly be possible for Israel by itself to achieve peaceful solutions. Israel's friends—I am thinking in particular of the United States—will have a most important role to play in this context.

Q: What do you think should such a peaceful solution in the Middle East look like? What steps

should be taken now? What could Austria do in this direction?

A: I have here on my desk the Foreign Policy Report of 1979. It says that in Austria's view a solution to the crisis in the Middle East is only possible through a policy which recognises four facts:

(1) Israel is a reality and, like any other state, has a right to recognition and secure borders.

(2) The Palestinian people are also a reality, and like any other nation they have national rights which must be respected.

(3) The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is generally recognised by the Palestinians as their representative body. Hence whoever wants to talk to the Palestinians has to talk to the PLO. And I may add that this is true regardless who may be the leaders of that organisation. You cannot pick your own partners in such talks, and only the Palestinians themselves can decide what to speak for them.

(4) Force cannot and must not be a means for the legitimate acquisition of territories, and this means that Israel must withdraw from the occupied areas.

Those were the principles which we thought right in 1979, and they are still valid today.

On the whole, however, my view of the situation in the Middle East is pessimistic. Unfortunately I can see no reason for optimism at the moment.

Gulbenkian finally honours modern art

By Clare Lovell
Reuter

LISBON — In defiance of its Armenian oil-magnate benefactor and Portuguese ecologists, Lisbon's major art centre, the Gulbenkian Foundation, has opened a new gallery dedicated to Modern Art.

The gallery, a bright, airy structure on three levels that creeps up a slope in the landscaped grounds of the foundation, houses works by Portuguese and foreign artists as well as a vast archive to allow frequent changes in exhibits.

Although it took only three years to build, the Modern Art Centre's supporters had to overcome many hurdles before they could give British architect Sir Leslie Martin the go-ahead to begin construction.

The siting of the gallery ran into opposition from a powerful "green lobby" anxious to preserve Lisbon's limited open spaces.

And, because the foundation trustees did not allow for a supplementary collection of modern works, critics felt the project was not in the spirit of founder Cal-

ouste Gulbenkian.

Gulbenkian, an oil millionaire with a passion for art who died in Lisbon in 1955 at the age of 86, had little time for works later than the Impressionists.

In a letter to a German art collector, Gulbenkian said he had a very eclectic taste in art but continued: "Very late Impressionist

Gulbenkian wished his priceless art collection, with 3,000 works ranging from Rubens to Monet to be housed under one roof and in 1969, the foundation's gallery was built in extensive grounds in Lisbon.

painting does not interest me. I remain faithful to old, more or less classical traditions."

Known as Mr. Five per cent, Gulbenkian made his fortune largely from his five per cent stake in the Iraq Petroleum Company in 1928, during the early days of oil exploration in the Middle East.

Turkish-born and British-educated, he arrived in Portugal in

1942 searching for a peaceful place untouched by World War II.

He loved the country and stayed, leaving his fortune to be set up as a foundation with headquarters in Lisbon, dedicated to art, education, Third World development and aid for Armenian communities.

Gulbenkian wished his priceless

art collection, with 3,000 works ranging from Rubens to Monet to be housed under one roof and in 1969, the foundation's gallery was built in extensive grounds in Lisbon.

Since then the gallery's fine art department, spearheaded by Foundation President Jose de Azeredo Perdigao, has been acquiring modern art works, par-

ticularly by Portuguese artists. Perdigao defended the Modern Art gallery project, saying Gulbenkian gave the trustees a free hand in the way they organised the foundation for the benefit of all forms of art.

"Art," Gulbenkian knew very well, is not a static product of man's creation... it is in constant evolution...." Perdigao said at the gallery's inauguration by Portuguese President Antonio Ramalho Eanes on July 20, the 28th anniversary of Gulbenkian's death.

Calooste Gulbenkian searched for beauty whatever its period or the form it assumed," he added.

The gallery's 6,200 square metres (7,400 square yards) occupy a considerable area of the foundation park but its structure fits neatly into the landscape, surrounded by statues, including a Henry Moore reclining nude, and new lawns.

The centre provides the first opportunity for a comprehensive exhibition of Portuguese art, until now mostly limited to small ill-attended galleries.

World oil glut may hit Egyptian workers abroad

By Bahgat Badie
Reuter

CAIRO — The decline in the world oil market due to falling demand could deal a heavy blow to Egypt's second most valuable export—its manpower.

About three million Egyptian workers, one in 15 of the population, are employed in the oil-rich countries of the Gulf. The money they sent home used to exceed the sums earned by Egypt for the sale of its own oil.

Now the picture is changing.

The long lines of workers queuing at airline offices in Cairo have doubts whether the move abroad will bring them the riches they hope.

There are fears that the oil glut could result in a Nigeria-style exodus of foreign workers from the Gulf, leading to intensification of Egypt's already difficult economic plight.

At present the bulk of workers go to Iraq and Jordan, while a few years ago they went to Libya when

relations were good with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

But with the world oil glut and the sharp decline in oil prices, Egyptian labour is expected to suffer, seriously affecting the sorely needed foreign currency remittances.

A

world oil glut has forced member states of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to reduce its benchmark oil price from \$34 a barrel to \$29.

Egypt has for years been providing teachers, doctors, skilled and unskilled workers and peasants to Arab countries, particularly since the heyday of the oil boom.

Demand for Egyptian workers shifts from one Arab country to the other, depending on ups and downs in diplomatic relations between Egypt and its Arab neighbours.

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relations were good with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

But with the world oil glut and the sharp decline in oil prices, Egyptian labour is expected to suffer, seriously affecting the sorely needed foreign currency remittances.

A Central Bank report for 1981/82 said transfers from Egyptians working abroad fell by about \$113 million or 33.2 per cent over the previous year, dropping from a total \$3.5 billion to \$1.7 billion.

The world recession and the drop in oil prices were bound to affect foreign currency transfers and the Ministry of Economy is at present making contingency plans to face a possible partial return of the labour force abroad." Economy Minister Mustapha Kamel said.

Although there is as yet no crisis, the Egyptian government is now devoting its attention to org-

anising the hitherto inefficient and haphazard channels of recruiting Egyptian labour to the oil-rich Gulf states.

In many Egyptian villages, up to 60 per cent or more of the male population are working abroad.

Egyptian migrant workers in Iraq and Libya are being increasingly used for agricultural work, replacing nationals recruited to the army.

Most cash comes from Saudi Arabia, because it draws the Egyptian professional and skilled working classes.

It said many peasants had been lured into such jobs as street sweeping and garbage collection in sweltering heat, that they dressed in rags and lived in huts reminiscent of the stone age for subsistence wages.

Others were reported to have been recruited to the Iraqi army for the war with Iran.

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Jerash Festival

Of Culture & Arts '83

12 - 20 August 1983



OFFICIAL PROGRAM

The Higher National Committee For The Jerash Festival

H.M. Queen Noor
(Chairperson)

Mrs. Leila Sharaf (Deputy Chairperson)	H.E. Ma'an Abu-Nuwarr
H.H. Princess Wijdan Ali	Dr. Adnan Badran
Mr. Peter Salah	Mr. Ali Ghadour
Mr. Muhammad Kamal	Dr. Mazen Arnouti
Col. Adnan Daghstani	(Festival Director)

Venues & Events of the Festival

(Refer to Program, pp. 7-15)

A. Participating Arab Troupes:

1. Fairuz & the Lebanese Troupe:

Fairuz is one of the most prominent Arab singers. Her group consists of 70 dancers & musicians. Performances will include songs, musical shows & folkloric dances.

2. The Reda Folklore Troop of Egypt:

Mahmoud Reda, choreographer & director of the troupe, has brought the vast heritage of Egyptian Folklore to the stage. He is ably supported by dancer Farida Fahmy & Maestro Ali Ismail.

3. The Yemeni Folklore Troupe:

A group of 13 dancers & musicians in colorful Yemeni costumes will present traditional dances & songs depicting heritage in the Arabian peninsula & the Yemen Arab Republic.

4. Kuwaiti Television Popular Arts Troupe:

A group of 47 members, including prominent singers, musicians & dancers in national costumes. The performance includes sketches representing cultural & artistic heritage in the Gulf area.

5. Algerian Folklore Troupe:

A group of 15 participants in national costumes & using traditional musical instruments. They will present a variety of songs & dances in different venues.

6. The Tunisian Popular Arts Troupe:

This group includes artists & musicians in national costumes & will present sketches depicting the colorful life in the Maghreb Area.

7. "Zaghbil Danas" Popular Poetry Group of Lebanon:

This group has 4 members & will present sketches of popular Arabic poetry dealing with current social issues. The group has gained prominence in Lebanon & the Arab World.

B. Participating International Troupes:

1. The Cinema Acrobatic Troupe:

The group in comprised of 30 members & will present performances in the South Theatre. The team which comes from the Hanjo area has attained international fame by its performances in many parts of the world.

2. "Sleeping Beauty":

Play by the Empire State Institute for Performing Arts (ESIPA) USA. The play is made up of 15 scenes, related in sequential pattern to encompass the Sleeping Beauty fable, but each scene staged to stand by itself. This special adaptation is the product of playwright Richard Shaw & director Joseph Ballou. Inspired by Kabuki, & the classic theater styles of Japan.

3. Sufi Kaval of Chayayen - Troupe from Bangladesh:

Led by Dr. Sufia Kama, this group of popular arts is comprised of 32 performers & musicians. Sketches of dances and scenes will be presented by this troupe that has gained prominence among Bengali popular arts and drama groups.

4. Salzburger Stierwandler - Austria Folklore:

Led by Joseph Holzleitner, this group of 26 dancers & musicians will present attractive sketches of Austrian Folkloric dances in national costumes from the Salzburg area.

5. La Cimade Nisarda (Nice-France):

Founded in 1925, the goal of this troupe was to bring back to life the sound traditions of the old country of Nice & to resemble the favourable elements of the "Folklore Niçois". The group which is led by Francis Barralis is made up of 30 participants wearing national costumes.

6. Hall-Rogers Modern Dance Troupe (U.S.A.):

The performances which will be presented are a cooperative effort by Lucinda Weaver Hall (A solo dancer) and the Wendy Rogers Dance Company from the Bay Area in California. Both Mrs. Hall & Ms. Wendy Rogers have built a reputation for their innovative choreography of modern dances that depicts craft, imagination and emotional resonance. The repertory includes a new dance entitled "Jerash".

7. Pervartya Kala Kendra Folklore Troupe of India:

Established in 1968, the group is a representative cultural organization of the Utarakhand region of the State of Uttar Pradesh. The program captures the atmosphere of that region through songs and dances, rhythm and movements, costumes and other effects (25 participants).

8. "Felt Cities of Oristano" The Italian Folklore Dance Group of Sardinia:

The group, comprised of 29 dancers and musicians, will present a set of dances and musical sketches representing the folk art in the Island of Sardinia. This group is distinguished for its innovation, choreography and colorful costumes.

9. Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver (U.S.A.):

A prominent group that consists of 4 men who combine the folk music of the Appalachian mountains in the eastern United States, the "bluegrass" style of instrumentation, and contemporary vocal country arrangements. Mr. Lawson has an impressive background in the field of folk music. Other members of his group are also accomplished singers.

10. Pipes & Drums of the Argyl & Sutherland Highlanders:

This Scottish military band is comprised of 29 soldiers and will present a program which includes a wide variety of music, singing, and traditional scottish dancing.

C. Poetry & Literature:

The Poetry & Literature Committee, chaired by Dr. Ibrahim Sa'afir, has produced a 7-session program of Arabic poetry & literature with the participation of prominent poets and literary critics from Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, and North Yemen. All sessions will be presented at the Artemis Steps.

D. Local Theater:

This segment includes the presentation of four Arabic plays by established Jordanian drama groups. The plays are: "Dum - Dum - Tack," directed by Khaled Tarif; "Bukra Inshalla," directed by Nadim Sawalha; "Mubakama...," directed by Basem Dalqamoni; "Insu Hirustrat," directed by Ghassan Haddad.

The local Theater program is supervised by Hatem Sayyed.

E. Children Theater:

This part of the Festival will also include four plays in Arabic & will be presented at the Sound & light Theater at early hours. The plays are: "Watan Asaif," directed by Naim Haddad; "Dalkush," directed by Asmahan Alawi; "Suleiman Wan-Nahla," a puppet play directed by Wafa Gusew; "Al-Assad," directed by Akram Abi Ragheb.

F. Local Folklore:

The Jordanian Folklore Committee of the Festival has assembled an impressive program of traditional dance and music shows under the supervision of Haider Mahmoud and Nariman Rousan. The Program includes the following features that will be presented in different venues:

1. "Dance & Sauer" traditional Jordanian dances:

150 members participate in this program in the form of groups representing youth clubs and associations from different regions. All will be wearing traditional costumes. The set-up was designed and choreographed specifically for the Festival. In essence, the program will be a reconstruction of impressive authentic Jordanian wedding celebrations.

2. Circassian Folk Dances:

These dances are presented by 51 participants from the "Jil" club in Amman, featuring sketches depicting the cultural heritage of the Circassian community in Jordan. The Troupe members will wear traditional costumes of the Caucasus.

3. Yarmouk University Folklore Troupe:

This group, comprising 14 students, was established in 1976. Wearing national costumes, members will present an impressive program of traditional Jordanian "Dabke" dances and songs.

4. ALIA Jordanian Folklore Troupe:

This thirty-member Troupe was formed in 1980, and has participated in several international festivals. Dances are adapted by Choreographer Mano Sataman and costume are designed by Papou Lahoud.

5. The "Shishaa Kids" Troupe:

This troupe was assembled specifically for the Festival, and is comprised of 22 children in national costumes. They will present a program of dances and songs derived from the rich heritage of the Shishaa Caucasus Community in Jordan.

G. Local Music & Songs:

1. The Jordanian Armed Forces Band:

The Jordanian Armed Forces Band, led by Lt. Colonel Jamal Attiyeh will play a prominent role at the Festival and will perform daily in the Forum area. The band's lively marching music, its bagpipe corps, and its performances of

traditional Jordanian folk songs have captured the hearts of Jordanians for many years.

In addition, the Jordanian Armed Forces Orchestra will perform a classical music concert at the South Theater.

2. Radio Jordan Orchestra:

Radio Jordan Orchestra, conducted by Rawhi Shaheen, will participate in the Festival with a variety show which will include a children's choir, a mawwalatih choir, several popular Jordanian singers, as well as the instrumental group which will perform music from the Jordanian folklore.

3. Rock Concert I:

One of two rock and pop concerts at the Festival, this show will feature the diverse styles of three Jordanian bands: Singer Ummah Jabbour and his group with a variety of popular Arabic songs; the Dream, a group with its own original compositions; Unite, a four piece band, presenting a performance of various rock and jazz arrangements.

4. Rock Concert II:

This Concert will be fully dedicated to the unique and original sound of heavy metal. Singer Charles Metropolis will present a solo performance, followed by the 4 - piece Jordanian band, Black Rose. The highlight of the concert will be the heavy metal band Sirena which will be performing various pieces from the band's original repertoire.

The rock and music program has been organized by Raja Kawa.

H. Paintings & Fine Arts Exhibitions:

Works by prominent Jordanian artists will be exhibited in the Zein Vaults in an impressive underground setting. The Cathedral area will be the site where many other works of art, paintings and children art will be exhibited. The exhibition is organized by Mahmoud Tahs.

I. Arab Book Fair:

The First Annual Arab Book Fair will take place at the Collonade West area under the supervision of Dr. Ahmad Sharabi. The Fair includes:

1. An exhibition of publications by academic & non-profit cultural institutions from the Arab World.

2. A wing displaying & marketing children's books & educational toys.

3. A wing of general books for sale and display. Over one hundred Jordanian and Arab publishers will participate in this fair.

J. Jordanian Crafts Exhibition:

This exhibition, organized by Dr. Odman Malhas & his committee, will be a main focus of the Festival. There are around 30 small shops constructed on suitable sites along the Colonnades Street to be used as storage spaces.

During Festival hours, various crafts will be exhibited in the open air in a wonderful setting.

The main types of Jordanian crafts that will be exhibited include Carpet weaving, glass making, wood carving, mother of pearl, ceramics, gold & silver, stone carving, traditional clothes, straw plates, etc...

Each craftsman will demonstrate the techniques of his craft to the public.

K. Fashion Shows:

Two fashion shows will be featured in the Festival. They are:

1. "Karyitas Ya Malha":

A fashion show produced by Widad Kawa with the participation of 45 volunteer models. Directed by Nader Omran, this show is presented in a festive atmosphere & will feature traditional Jordanian & Palestinian costumes from various regions of the country.

2. "Jordan Through History":

A very attractive show of Jordanian costumes, produced & directed by Basem Sheikh Jawad. The program is sponsored by the Jordanian Rural Development Association.

The show, with innovative choreography and music covers the fashions of Jordan and Palestine from 4500 B.C. to the present.

L. Films & Media Presentations:

The Media Committee, supervised by Farouk Zou'bi has packaged a rich program of films and multi-media presentations. There will be one film shown every day at the Cinema Theater. All films are produced & directed by prominent Arab artists from Egypt, Lebanon, & Syria.

Documentary and feature video-tapes and slide-sound presentations, in addition to cartoon films for children, will also be shown daily in the Museum Building.

It should be pointed out that two films, "Omar Mukhtar" & "The Message" will be presented in the original English versions. Both films are directed by Moustafa Akkad, & their cast includes Anthony Quinn & Irene Papas.

Friday, August 12

(Opening Day - By Invitation Only)

1. Forum

4.00 - 5.00
6.00 - 6.30
9.15 - 10.15

11.M. King Hussein & H.M. Queen Noor Open Festival (Military Band)
Jordanian Army Band
Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders

5.00 - 6.30
6.45 - 8.00
9.30 - 10.30

Algerian Folklore Troupe

19.15 - 12.00

2. South Theater

Kuwaiti Song & Music Troupe

(Tickets) 2 JD

"Sleeping Beauty" - ESIPA (U.S.A.)

(Tickets) 3 JD

Chinese Hainan Acrobatic Troupe

(Tickets) 3 JD

19.15 - 12.00

3. Artemis Steps

Arabic Poetry & Literature (2)

(Tickets) 1 JD

"Bukra Inshalla" (Arabic Play)

(Tickets) 1 JD

Serdina Folklore Troupe (Italy)

(Tickets) 2 JD

4. Sound & Light Theater

Project Show (Arabic)

"Dakhtak" (Arabic Play For Children)

Rock Concert (I)

9.30 - 12.00

5. Cinema Theater

Jordanian Dubke Dances & Songs

Film: "Omar

ECONOMY

ICI reports robust profits

LONDON (R) — Britain's largest manufacturing company, Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), Thursday reported robust profits for the first half of 1983, spurred in large part by a weaker pound sterling.

Favourable rates of exchange accounted for almost half of the £153 million (£232 million) increase over profits for the comparable period of last year.

ICI is a pillar of the British economy and it has also been a favorite share buy for American investors recently.

Total pre-tax profits in the first half of £298 million (£453 million) were double the £145 million (£230 million) posted in the same 1982 period.

Second quarter pre-tax profits totalled £170 million (£258 million) compared with £128 million (£194 million) in the first quarter.

Market analysts said ICI had been trading on the currency markets during the most recent quarter, a new development.

Mr. Stuart Walmsley of stockbrokers W. Greenwell commented: "They did well this time, but next time they may go wrong."

Xerox profits decline

NEW YORK (R) — The Xerox Corporation, number one in the copier business, Thursday reported that its profits declined in the second quarter of this year and said certain items that helped the company do as well as it did in the first half would not be present in the last six months of the year.

Profits declined for the company to \$153 million in the second quarter from \$161 million in the corresponding period of last year. Revenues rose to \$2.16 billion from \$2.11 billion.

For the half, profits rose to \$282 million from \$271 million in the first six months of 1982, as revenues rose to \$4.17 billion from \$4.11 billion. However, per share earnings declined to \$2.73 from \$3.20 because there were 10 million more shares outstanding.



Japan's trade surplus route to record high

TOKYO (R) — Figures released Friday show this year's Japanese trade surplus has already topped \$12 billion and is now set for a record high.

The finance ministry said Japan exported \$2.77 billion more in June than it imported, taking the trade surplus for the first half of 1983 to \$12.74 billion compared with just \$7.75 billion for the first six months of 1982.

Economists said the figure for 1983 is now bound to reach a record high, approaching some \$30 billion. This compares with \$18 billion for 1982.

The news has prompted fears of further complaints from major trading partners in North America and Europe.

In an interview with Reuters Thursday, Japanese Trade Minister Sosuke Uno appealed to the United States and European Economic Community (EEC) members to make greater efforts to sell their products in Japan.

"I sometimes feel foreign people should make more effort to know about Japan and try and sell harder in the Japanese market," he said.

A new wave of Japanese products, from tiny micro-chips to industrial plants, is reaching foreign shores as world recovery spreads through the major industrial nations.

At the same time Japan benefits from falling oil prices more than

anyone because the country imports about 99 per cent of the oil it consumes.

Major Japanese trading houses have said their export orders in June were 49 per cent higher than in June last year.

The growing Japanese surplus has triggered widespread complaints overseas, especially from countries carrying trade deficits, such as the United States.

Economists at the Japanese Nomura Research Institute said of the growing Japanese surplus: "This will add to international pressure to make the Japanese market more accessible for foreign products."

Foreign countries like Britain, France and the United States have said Japan must do more to import their manufactured products to end a lopsided trading tendency.

Sir Hugh Cortazzi, British ambassador to Japan, said recently: "The international trading system, the preservation of which is of such vital self-interest to Japan, will come under increasing strain unless Japan imports more manufactured goods."

In recent talks Japan has agreed to restrain exports to major trading nations, but still the surplus keeps rising.

Mr. Uno told Reuters: "I feel trade friction is not something of course which is very desirable, and it is all the better if we can eradicate it, which is something we

have to try to do."

Mr. Uno said Japan had about 27,000 business overseas, while the total workforce of foreign companies in Japan was only 3,400.

"Frankly speaking, when you ask me is it really possible for Japan to import to make a substantial contribution to a reduction of the deficit of other countries, the answer is that it is very difficult," he said.

The United States has accused Japan of maintaining restrictions on foreign products and nurturing major industries behind protective barriers before unleashing their exporting energy across the globe.

The finance ministry said Japan's current account balance of payments figure, which took into account invisible trade such as shipping, insurance and tourism, was \$2.2 billion in surplus in June.

This took the half-year total to above \$7 billion against \$1.67 billion in the first half of 1982.

Earlier Friday further signs of Japan's emergence from recession came with an official announcement that unemployment fell to 1.48 million in June from 1.58 million in May.

Japan still had one of the world's lowest inflation rates, at two per cent in June against 2.7 per cent the previous month, officials added.

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"There are frequent cases when a whole range of products are absent from shelves for no good reason. Not long ago there was an almost universal absence of washing powder, and today it is hard to buy shoe polish," Pravda said. There was no excuse for these shortcomings, often the result of delays in introducing new techniques, and just as often of inefficiency in using material and skill to hand, it said.

Bonds rallied from opening lows, however, as investors were unwilling to sell at the lower levels. Golds and U.S. shares fell.

Lloyds Bank was down 15p at 544 as its half year results suffered in comparison with Midland and Natwest, dealers said. In

Electricals, Plessey fell 11p to 681 after Friday's annual meeting and ahead of Monday's capital reorganisation.

Car distributor Lex Service was an isolated gainer, up 20p at 358 after 368 on interim results and a bullish statement. Mercantile House, which goes ex-dividend on Monday, was 13p down at 810. Dull oils had B.P. down 8p at 392.

Bonds pared early losses of 1/4 point to around 1/4 point in long dates. Dealers said trade was again very thin.

Pravda highlights failures

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet consumers find shops lacking in products ranging from sports goods and clothing to toys and cosmetics because the chemical industry fails to meet its targets, the official daily Pravda said Thursday.

"There are frequent cases when a whole range of products are absent from shelves for no good reason. Not long ago there was an almost universal absence of washing powder, and today it is hard to buy shoe polish," Pravda said. There was no excuse for these shortcomings, often the result of delays in introducing new techniques, and just as often of inefficiency in using material and skill to hand, it said.

Among leaders, ICI was down 12p at 544 after a low of 542. Grand Met was down 10p at 337 and Thorn fell 13p to 212. Some dealers said the view the market is overbought and has failed to reflect the recent rise in government bond yields prompted selling, although they felt turnover was not particularly large.

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LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed easier, with prices mostly at the day's lows as further weakness on Wall Street encouraged profit-taking for the end of the account, dealers said. At 15,001 the F.T. index was down 12.7 at 708.7.

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Mutt 'n' Jeff

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, M'LVE! HONEST!

Let's take a rest.

WHAT THE GUY WHO WAS "ALL FEET" WHEN HE DANCED WAS WHEN THEY SAT DOWN.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A C L H A M P S

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CURIO BARGE NAPKIN MATURE

Answer: What some skaters might have to do in order to get better acquainted—BREAK THE ICE

NEWS IN BRIEF

ADB lends \$24.6m to Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA (R) — The African Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$24.6 million loan to build a road in Ethiopia's coffee-growing region of Illubabor, the Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) reported Friday.

Turkish firm to raise \$150m loans

ISTANBUL (R) — Enka Holding, a Turkish firm specialising in construction contracting, said Thursday it planned to raise \$150 million through two international bank loans over the next two months. Company officials said the loans would be used to finance foreign contracts, of which Enka had over \$1.5 billion worth in the Middle East.

Arab bank assets reach \$1.26b

MANAMA (OPECNA) — The United Gulf Bank, the world's fourth largest Arab bank, increased its assets by 25 per cent of \$1.26 billion in the first half of this year, according to Managing Director Mahmoud Al Nouri. Total loans provided by the bank reached \$428 million while deposits stood at \$712 million in June compared to \$460 million in January.

Spain plans to reprivatise Rumasa

MADRID (R) — Spain's socialist government Thursday set up a commission to direct the return to the private sector of the Rumasa holding group, which it took over last February, an official spokesman said. The government expropriated Rumasa, Spain's largest private holding company, saying financial irregularities had brought it near to collapse.

Wellington announces record deficit

WELLINGTON (R) — The New Zealand government Thursday announced a budget with a record deficit after engineering a sharp cut in bank interest rates to bring down the cost of borrowing. The budget was announced shortly after the state-owned Bank of New Zealand slashed all of its interest rates by four percentage points.

Chrysler to buy plant for \$192m

DETROIT, Michigan (R) — Chrysler, the third largest U.S. carmaker, said Thursday it had agreed to buy Volkswagen of America's idle Michigan car plant for \$192 million over 12 years. Chrysler agreed to buy the plant earlier this month but the price was disclosed only Thursday, in a footnote to the company's second quarter balance sheet. Volkswagenwerk, the parent firm of Volkswagen of America, is expected to endorse the terms.

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Guinness of films	26	Antelope	27	Snake	51	More	52	Secular	23	Vincent Lopez song	26	Balbo
Taj Mahal site	29	Sparkling headress	53	Golden Golden	54	Moby Dick's pursuer	55	Spirit	27	Carlina runner	28	Majorca port
Home of the llama	37	Associata	56	— Magnon	57	Egg, Caesar	58	— of the party	29	Expenditure	30	— d'au prayer desk
Surpass	38	Caper	59	Josip Broz	60	Author of "Silas Marner"	61	Long river	31	Caka topping	32	Soviet cooperativa
US canal	40	Moon vehicle	62	Abodes: abr.	63	Knowledge	64	Valley	33	Trap	35	Years, to Carlo
7	41	Spree	65	—	66	Transmission medium	67	Follow closely	36	Relish	37	Biological cell
Harness parts	42	Decreases	68	for ona	69	Assam silkworm	70	Follow closely	38	Pokar monay	40	Against —
Monk's room	43	"Messiah"	71	Flock of geese	72	Godless	73	Follow closely	41	Kick	42	Corrupt
Mada	44	for	74	Norwegian crowns	75	wisdom	76	Follow closely	43	Relish	45	Biological cell
des	45	45	75	Danish crowns	76	girl	77	Follow closely	46	Pokar monay	48	Against —
22	46	— now, brown cow?"	77	U.S. dollars	78	Heinous	79	Follow closely	49	Log float	50	Heinous
Lonely	47	Tasdale Haart	79	of poetry	80	Heinous	81	Follow closely	51	Dickens girl	53	Heinous
Yesterdays Puzzles Solved:	81	—	82	—	83	—	84	—	85	—	86	—

Peanuts

DEAR CHARLES, I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERY DAY.

MARIE, YOU CAN'T TELL CHUCK THAT! HE'LL GET THE BIG HEAD!

CAN I TELL HIM I THINK ABOUT HIM EVERY OTHER DAY?

WORLD

U.S. Navy ships off Nicaragua as Congress baulks at Reagan

PANAMA CITY (R) — U.S. navy manoeuvres off Nicaragua cast a shadow Friday over a conference of nine Latin American foreign ministers trying to avert a war in Central America.

The three-day meeting of five Central American nations and the Contadora group of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama, began Thursday night after Honduras and Nicaragua traded harsh words over a U.S. show of military strength in war games involving 10 warships and up to 4,000 combat troops.

And in Washington, the House of Representatives deals a major rebuff to President Reagan, voting to cut off all undercover aid for Honduran-based Nicaraguan rebels trying to topple the leftist government in Managua.

The 228 to 195 vote ended two

days of bitter debate over Mr. Reagan's moves to foil what he calls a Soviet-Cuban-Nicaraguan attempt to take over Central America. It reflected mounting alarm over U.S. military involvement in the region and congressmen said they believed the vote could force a change of White House policy.

In the Costa Rican capital of San Jose, President Luis Alberto Monge told reporters the U.S. and the Soviet Union were heading for a Central America showdown.

In Panama, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto told reporters that progress at the

three-day conference would be very difficult if the U.S. went ahead with plans to station warships off Nicaragua.

Father D'Escoto charged the navy manoeuvres "proved the U.S. is doing everything possible to make sure the Contadora initiative fails."

Honduran Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica, defended the exercises, which included two U.S. carriers with 140 aircraft, as necessary to dissuade Nicaragua from attacking his country.

He quoted press reports that 12 Soviet freighters loaded with arms were heading for Nicaragua. Father D'Escoto said he wished the reports were true.

In Islamabad, visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian said Peking strongly opposed foreign intervention in the affairs of Central American states.

The row over the war games overshadowed the Contadora group's main goal to persuade Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and Costa Rica to adopt its peace plan.

Father D'Escoto called for the conference to focus on the U.S. naval movements. Some Latin Americans fear the warships' presence could turn into a blockade of Nicaragua, charged by Mr. Reagan with running Soviet-bloc arms to leftists in the region.

"We came here willing to have a dialogue but the (manoeuvres) are a pistol pointed at our head," Father D'Escoto said.

In Islamabad, visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian said Peking strongly opposed foreign intervention in the affairs of Central American states.

Panic sweeps through Colombo

COLOMBO (R) — Panic swept through Colombo Friday and thousands of office workers rushed home early after reports that the Sri Lankan capital, already torn by riots this week, had been infiltrated by guerrillas.

Government spokesman Douglas Liyanage confirmed to reporters that 12 men suspected of belonging to a guerrilla movement had been arrested and taken to a police station in the centre of the city.

There was no confirmation of rumours that the 12 had been sniping at troops from buildings.

Ethnic violence erupted in Colombo and other areas after guerrillas seeking a separate state for minority Tamils killed 13 soldiers in an ambush last Saturday.

The majority Sinhalese retaliated by attacking shops, factories and homes of Tamils and killing more than 150 people, acc-

ording to unofficial estimates. The official death toll for the whole of the island is now close to 100.

Mr. Liyanage said police had reported 73 deaths in the Colombo area since Saturday. They included 52 Tamils massacred in two riots at a prison and nine people killed Thursday at a railway station after they were found to be carrying bombs and pistols.

He said the evacuation of Tamil refugees from Colombo to Jaffna, 400 kilometres to the north, started Friday.

One ship with 350 people has sailed while another will leave during the weekend with 400 more.

About 8,000 of the 35,000 refugees in Colombo have said they want to go to Jaffna.

Mr. Liyanage said refugees in Colombo were housed in nine camps while there were thousands of others in relief centres at the

highland city of Kandy, the southern town of Galle, and in the gem producing areas of Ratnapura.

He denied one rumour that Colombo's water supply had been poisoned.

Meanwhile, Indian Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao met President Junius Jayewardene. Mr. Rao was sent here as concern grew in India about the safety of its nationals in Sri Lanka.

Officials said Mr. Rao later flew by helicopter to Kandy where people of Indian origin are reported to be affected by the troubles.

Mr. Jayewardene announced Thursday night that legislation would be passed in parliament next Thursday outlawing political parties campaigning for a separate state and their members would be stripped of civic rights.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Palermo investigator killed by car bomb

PALERMO, Sicily (R) — Palermo's chief criminal investigator and two carabinieri policemen escorting him were killed by a car bomb, Friday police said. According to first reports, the chief investigator, Rocco Chinnici, was about to get into his bullet-proof car in front of his home in the Sicilian capital when another car parked nearby exploded. The blast also killed the porter of Mr. Chinnici's apartment block and wounded three other carabinieri.

It is not easy to be street cleaners

LONDON (R) — Situations vacant: Half a dozen street cleaners required for a Middle Eastern city, salary about £16,000 (\$24,000) plus overtime. But there are some particular requirements for the six who will supervise a workforce in the Muslim holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia. Successful candidates need to be Muslims, have British passports, a minimum of seven years cleaning experience and preferably a British military background. A spokesman for the recruiting firm said: "The military background request is a little unusual. But they will be in charge of 100 to 200 cleaners from Third World countries and our clients thought this would be useful".

Sino-Indian talks to be in Autumn

NEW DELHI (R) — The fourth round of talks between India and China on their border dispute is expected to be held in Delhi in the autumn, Minister of State for External Affairs A.A. Rahim told Parliament Friday. The exact date had not yet been given by the Chinese, he said. Rahim said in the Rajya Sabha (upper house) that differences between India and China on their boundary dispute still remained.

Sleep with your heads to East?

NEW DELHI (R) — Two Indian scientists have advised people to sleep with their heads pointing towards the East because this will make them feel calm and alert. The scientists said that sleeping with the head pointing northwards could cause confusion, depression, restlessness and sloth, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported Friday. The scientists, who were studying the effect of the earth's magnetic field on man's moods, reached their conclusions after tests on healthy people and animals under controlled conditions in a medical institute in Madras, South India. PTI added.

Wedding lover courts the law

LONDON (R) — Frederick Monkhouse is so fond of weddings that he married seven different women in 10 years. The trouble was that he only bothered to get divorced twice, inner London Crown Court was told. Monkhouse, 34, was given a 12-month suspended sentence for bigamy. "He is exceptionally partial to weddings," prosecuting counsel told the court.

Latest search for Titanic abandoned

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (R) — Texas oil millionaire Jack Grimmett has called off his latest search for the sunken luxury liner Titanic. His research vessel Robert D. Conrad steamed back to Halifax last week after equipment failures and the stormy north Atlantic defeated his third and latest effort. Seas cresting at 11 metres and 50-knot winds made it impossible to overcome persistent problems with an underwater sled carrying camera gear, search leader Mike Harris said in a radio-telephone interview from the ship. Grimmett, who claims to be the only person to know exactly where the pride of the White Star line went down, was searching about 360 nautical miles southeast of Newfoundland. He based his third attempt last year purporting to show a propeller.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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TRUMPS WERE ONLY ONE PROBLEM

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ A 6
♥ Q 10
♦ Q 9 6 5
♦ Q 10 5 3 2

WEST
♦ 10 9 7 ♠ K J 8 5 4 3 2
♥ J 9 7 6 5 3 ♠ K 2
♦ J 8 4 ♠ 10 7 3
♦ A ♠ K

SOUTH
♦ Q
♥ A 8 4
♦ A K 2
♦ J 9 8 7 6 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♦ 2 ♥ 3 ♠ Dble
Dble Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♦.

result was a slam that was distinctly against the odds. And the only thing we can say about West's vulnerable and weak jump overcall is don't even look at it. But it did play a vital part in the outcome of the hand.

West led a spade, and as soon as dummy hit the table, declarer remarked: "Well, I'm off the two top clubs, but obviously they're 1-1." Declarer could be sure of that, for had either defender started with both trump honors, he would have doubled six clubs!

Declarer won the ace of spades and ruffed a spade. To make the hand, he had to eliminate diamonds as an exit suit for the defenders and hope for an end play. So he cashed his three top diamonds and exited with a trump, and was delighted to find that it was West who had to win the trick while East's king came tumbling down.

Since a spade would give declarer his contract via a ruff-and-sluff, West exited with a heart. Confident that he knew the heart position because of West's overall declarer played the queen from the table. Unfortunately that fetched the king from East — down one!

No bridge tournament is without its share of amusing hands. Consider this example from the recent Fall North American Championships in Minneapolis.

We were not given an explanation of the bidding, in particular of North's cue bid of three hearts. Suffice it to say that neither South nor North was reticent at any stage of the auction. The

declarer had to contract via a ruff-and-sluff, West exited with a heart. Confident that he knew the heart position because of West's overall declarer played the queen from the table. Unfortunately that fetched the king from East — down one!

He said conventional ways of fighting crime could not be used in Indonesia and "the big question was, should we wipe out crime or

Reagan selects tough judge to head commission 'against the mob'

"The time has come for all of us to assist in the fight to break the power of the mob in America," he said.

Judge Kaufman, who passed long sentences on mobsters arrested at a secret "crime convention" in New York state 23 years ago, made clear that a prime aim of the commission would be to investigate the smuggling and distribution of illicit drugs.

Attorney General William French Smith told reporters at a briefing that one target would be "Japanese organised crime spreading its tentacles into Hawaii and the West Coast."

William Webster, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), said Japan's Yakuze syndicate, with hundreds of thousands of members, was trying to get control of U.S. businesses through criminal and corrupt activities.

Judge Kaufman, who is chief judge of the U.S. court of appeals for the second circuit including New York City, said the drug trade had been a "pipsqueak problem" when he acted 23 years ago, but now had grown to a \$79 billion a year business.

During the past few months special anti-drug task forces, especially in southern Florida, and other anti-drug task forces, especially in southern Florida, and other anti-crime groups have been set up.

Reagan says he is not prejudiced against blacks

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan, in a new attempt to overcome hostility from blacks, has defended himself against accusations of racism.

Speaking to the National Council of Negro Women at a White House reception, he said he had acquired a totally false image and was in fact fully opposed to prejudice and bigotry.

Mr. Reagan has long complained about allegations that he is a "rich man's president" not interested in minorities or the poor.

He is now trying to win black votes for a re-election campaign he will probably fight next year.

He said his administration had a good record in defending civil rights and working to improve conditions for blacks.

But he felt self-conscious defending himself, he added, because the popular image of him might make some of the audience doubt his sincerity.

Earlier Thursday Reagan agreed to withdraw his nomination of a southern Republican to an official post after Congressmen decided that some of the nominee's activities were anti-black.

Thomas Ellis, nominated as a member of the government's board for international broadcasting, testified to the Senate foreign relations committee that he once served with a group which financed research to try to prove blacks genetically inferior to whites.

In the confirmation hearings Mr. Ellis also said he belonged to an all-white country club, had extensive holdings in South Africa.

Mr. Reagan agreed to withdraw the nomination at the request of both the committee and Mr. Ellis.

He who complained, however, that the criticism of him was an attempt by Democrats to drive a wedge between Mr. Reagan and the black community.

The Rainbow Cinema is proud to present the great movie

KING OF GYPSIES

They have their own language...
Their own code of step, honor and intelligence...
And their own way of choosing a love.

A baseball bat, with about a dozen hairs clotted to its surface, was shown in court and after detective Welch said the fingerprint tests had proved negative, lawyer Barenz asked in cross-examination:

"You don't have any evidence...that Marvin Pancoast ever had his hand on the baseball bat?"

"No, I do not," Mr. Welch replied.

Mr. Welch also said Ms. Morgan's bedroom, in which she was murdered, was in total disarray.

"Like it was ransacked?" Mr. Barenz asked.

"You could say that," Mr. Welch replied.

A spokesman for the Central Java military command has denied allegations that the military or police were involved in the murders. Lt.-Col. Anton Margi told the official Antara news agency the dead people had been killed in gang warfare.

A spokesman for the Central Java military command has denied allegations that the military or police were involved in the murders. Lt.-Col. Anton Margi told the official Antara news agency the dead people had been killed in gang warfare.

Li-Gen. Murtopo told local reporters the government was paying attention to criticism of the killings from within and the country and abroad.

There has been no official body count but a Jakarta newspaper said this week at least 553 people had been murdered by unidentified gunmen since early this year.

Shows at 3:30, 6:00, and 8:30 p.m.

Additional show at 10:30 on Friday

Starring
Brooke Shields
Sparlin Ghaylen
Susan Sarandon

10:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.